

# TURKEY VULTURE

## *Cathartes aura*



## Vulture Culture

### Range

Found across the Americas, from southern Canada in the north to the southern tip of Argentina in the south.



### Habitat

Mostly associated with open habitats such as grassland, prairies and pastures, but also found in desert, wetland and subtropical forests across their range. Often seen over urban areas.

### Diet

Primarily carrion, preferring freshly dead animals. Has been reported eating insects and small reptiles, and some plant matter (shoreline vegetation, coconuts and pumpkins)

### Breeding

Female lays 1-3 eggs on a bare surface, usually on a cliff, crevice or rocky outcrop. Breeding season varies throughout the range but generally March to August. Eggs are incubated by both parents and hatch between 30-40 days. Care is provided for about 10-12 weeks, by which point the chicks have fledged. Families stay together until the autumn,

### Did you know?

Turkey Vultures have an amazing sense of smell. This allows them to find carcasses in wooded areas before other scavengers.

